(b) No detailed survey has yet been conducted for identification of wasterlands but according to one estimate, the total extent of wastelands in the country is 130 million hectares out of which 93.69 million hectares is non-forest lands which form part of the mandate of the reconstituted NWDB.

(c) Development of wastelands in the country is being carried out through the various Departments of State Governments autonomous State and Central bodies. Non Government Organisations and Voluntary Agencies.

Enactment of a Legislation on Illegal Possession of Panchayat Land

478. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact a law to prevent illegal possession of Panchayat land;

(b) if so, whether the law is likely to be passed during the current session of Parliament; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINSITER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT): (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Panchayat Elections in the Various States

479. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether village Panchayat elections are due in several States of the country;

(b) if so, the names of these States;

(c) whether these elections would be held in accordance with the provisions of the Panchayat Raj Act recently passed by the Parliament;

(d) if so, whether the State Governments have been asked to frame the rules accordingly before holding elections; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) A statement showing the names of States where village Panchayat elections are already due or due in 1993, as per the information received from the State Governments is placed at statement (*See* below)

(c) The Constitution (Seventy-second Amendment) Bill, 1991 on Panchayats, which has been passed by Parliament is yet to become an Act as it has to be ratified by not less than one half of the State Legislatures, before being presented to the President of India for assent. The Bill provides that all Panchayats existing immediately before the commencement of the Act shall continue till the expiration of their duration, unless sooner dissolved by a resolution passed to that effect by the legislative Assembly of that State or in case of a State having a Legislative Council, by each house of the Legislature of that State. After the commencement of the Constitution Amendment Act, the State Governments would be required to modify their Panchayat Acts so as to conform to the provisions of the Central Act within one year from such commencement. Elections will be held in accordance with the provisions of the State Panchayat Acts only.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Statement

Names of States where Village Panchayat elections are already due or due in 1993

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Arunachal Pradesh